

the Journalist

a departmental newsletter for journalism majors & minors

Department reaccredited

Staff Report

The Accrediting Council for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication has recommended that the Eastern Illinois University's Journalism Department be re-accredited.

The report now goes to the ACEJMC Accrediting Committee when it meets April 17-18 in Chicago. Final approval rests with the full council when it meets April 27-28 in Washington, D.C.

The site team's report praised the faculty members for significantly increasing their level of research/creative activity since the last accrediting visit in 2005, Dr. James Tidwell, department chair, said. He said the report noted several other strengths of the program:

- Students, faculty and others on campus all praise the warm and close relationships between faculty and students.

**Reaccredited,
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ACEJMC AR Report Card

Subject	Compliance/ Non-compliance
Mission Governance and Administration	Compliance
Curriculum and Instruction	Compliance
Diversity and Inclusiveness	Compliance
Full-time and Part-time Faculty	Compliance
Research, Creativity and Professional Activity	Compliance
Student Services	Compliance
Resources, Facilities and Equipment	Compliance
Professional and Public Service	Compliance
Assessment of Learning Outcomes	Compliance

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Professors win awards



DEN has new site, look

By Marcus Smith
Editor

The Daily Eastern News has a new website and a new look. The agreement with the previous content service provider, College Publisher, had run its course.

College Publisher was switching software from College Publisher version 4 to College Publisher version 5 and was no longer going to support College Publisher version 4 software.

“We could’ve upgraded to College Media version 5 and gone with their new revenue model,” Prof. Bryan Murley said. “Or there were

some other options we looked at, hosting our own site and things like that, but at the time working with Town News, which is owned by Lee Enterprises, we felt like was a better option for us.”

Murley said one of the main reasons it was decided to go to a different content management service provider was to get a better return on ads. He said it was not feasible to sell ads with College Publisher’s new revenue models.

“We wanted the top spaces, but to buy those top spaces would of cost more per month than we could possibly sell.

Reaccredited

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- Assessment practices are firmly established, and the faculty uses the assessment results to change and improve classes and the overall program.

- The unit does an admirable amount of service work, including its support of scholastic journalism throughout the state of Illinois and the nation.

- Students have many opportunities for working on award-winning campus media.

- Facilities are better than those at many larger schools. The campus continues to invest in technology resources in the unit.

ACEJMC is made up of academics from a number of educational organizations, along with members representing such groups as American Society of News Editors, Newspaper Association of America, Radio-Television Digital News Association, Society of Professional Journalists, Public Relations Society of American and American Advertising Federation.

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Gire — advocate of free speech

By Lisa Deaver

The 2011 Journalism Alumnus of the Year, Dann Gire, was honored at an Oct. 21 luncheon and was guest speaker in several journalism classes the day before.

“Dann is a great human being and has always helped the department anyway he can,” said Dr. James Tidwell, department chair.

Tidwell said Gire has continued to support the department through the years by speaking at the Embarras Film Festival every year and speaking at many department events upon request.

Gire said an important piece from his biography, important for students to know, is his opposition to censorship.

While attending Eastern in 1973, Gire was a member of the Eastern Film Society which sponsored the First New York Erotic Film Festival in the theater auditorium. The showing was shut down by the



Submitted photo

Eastern President Gilbert Fite.

Gire contacted the local ACLU chapter and attorney John Elder from Charleston to take this matter to the court house. Fite was eventually convinced by his attorney that a state school could not defend censorship and was advised to back

down.

Gire said that the first night of showing the festival, it made enough money to finance the following year's schedule of foreign and independent movies.

Gire obtained a bachelor's and master's degree in speech communication at Eastern. During his time here he was heavily involved in *The Eastern News* serving as sports editor, photography editor and co-editor-in-chief of the *News*.

After graduation Gire joined the *The Daily Herald* in 1975 and worked as a government reporter, crime reporter, metro reporter and film critic.

Gire served as a film critic for 33 years. He taught journalism and oversaw and advised the student newspaper at William Rainey Harper College in Palatine.

Gire is currently teaching journalism at Aurora College while working as a full-time journalist.

Remarks by Dann Gire, Alumnus of the Year

I stand before you this day a grateful, prodigal son of Charleston, a product of its public schools and of its university. More accurately, the recipient of great influences from extraordinary people. People such as Pierce Pickins, the faculty advisor of the Charleston High School newspaper who opened my eyes to the possibility of journalism as something a little more important than an after school activity.

People such as Dan Thornburgh, DT, whose gentle and irresistible powers of persuasion invited a wide-eyed, wet-behind-the-ears teenager to join the then not daily Eastern News, thereby giving him an instant community of like-minded students and a place to belong.

People such as Dave Reed, who dropped out of the sky one day in 1972 after inexplicably giving up the greatest job in the world — working as a reporter for the Chicago Sun-Times -- to not only teach budding journalists about accuracy, fairness, empathy, truth, responsibility, community, commitment, ethics and action, he exemplified and lived those

qualities every day and night in our news room and in our classes.

People such as SIU grad Doug Ray, editor of the then-not Daily Herald, who took a chance on an Eastern kid without a journalism major, but with the support of Reed and DT, who put their markers up for him. People such as Bill Lair, Times Courier editor who for three decades covered the lives of the people of Coles County, and counted me among them.

I continue to be challenged and impressed by the EIU Journalism staff I've come to know in the past few years. Brian, Joe, Dan, Sally, Lola and Tidwell. They're smart, resourceful, experienced, motivating teachers and you who are their students probably have no idea how lucky you are to have them. I would have loved to have had these teachers back in the '70s. That way, they'd also be older than I am, and that would make me feel a little better.

For those of you who are concerned about the future of journalism, I say fear not. Journalism is as adaptable as a virus, the kind that inoculates a free soci-

ety from the illnesses of greed, injustice, intolerance, and malfeasance. Journalists began with pamphlets, graduated to newspapers and magazines, escalated into radio and television. And finally segued into the Internet. Journalists have adapted and thrived in each new evolving medium, and will continue to adapt and thrive in the media of tomorrow.

Journalism is one of the few professions, I dare say one of the few callings, durable enough to weather the changes in our careers, flexible and broad enough to span the time and space of our lives, responsive to the inevitable changes in journalistic needs, and resilient enough to provide its practitioners with a lifetime of communicating knowledgeably, critically, ethically and effectively.

For those of you who want to change the world and to those of you who actually will, I say this to you. Do not settle to merely make a difference. Saddam Hussein made a difference.

Go crazy. Commit yourself.
Don't just make a difference.
Make an improvement.

Students in Orlando for conference

By Kristin Jording

The Warbler won first place for the fewer than 300-pages yearbook category and *The Daily Eastern News* won second place for four year (school) daily tabloids at the 90th Annual College Media Convention. The convention includes the groups, College Media Advisers and Associated Collegiate Press.

“It’s just a reinvigorating experience to have students put out the best student publications,” John Ryan, director of Student Publications, said.

Ryan and Prof. Lola Burnham drove 10 students to Orlando, Fla. for the conference, Oct. 27–30.

Students on the trip include *The Daily Eastern News* staffers, Alex McNamee, Liz Edwards, Nike Ogunbodede, Kim Foster, Seth Schroeder, Doug Graham and Rachel Rodgers. *Warbler* staff members attending include Kristin Jording, Danny Damiani and Olivia Angeloff.

This conference will be Damiani’s, a junior journalism major, third conference.

He said he looked forward to the new sessions that the conference offered.

“It seems like there was a bigger variety this year,” he said.

In the past Damiani has focused on photography sessions, but this year he wants to focus more on yearbook, brainstorming and design sessions, he said.

The first conference Damiani went to was in Austin, Texas, and the second was in Louisville, Ky.

The group also experienced Orlando after the conference ended Saturday, Damiani said.

The students left for the conference Oct. 26 at 4 a.m. Ryan said he was not looking forward to driving

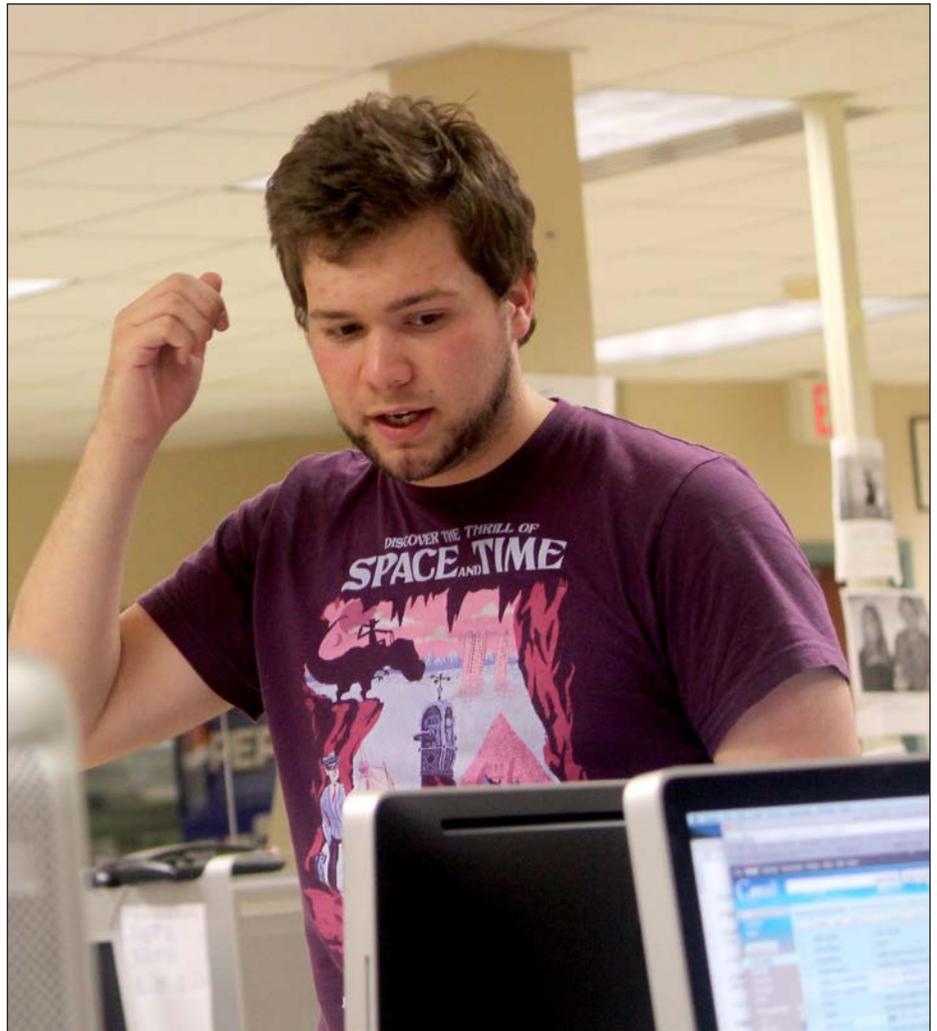


Photo By Marcus Smith

Seth Schroeder, a sophomore journalism major, working in the newsroom Oct. 19. Schroeder is the editor of the Verge.

to Florida, but he has driven to Denver, Austin and Washington, D.C., in the past. EIU students and faculty have been attending this conference since the ’70s.

“Students enjoy going to different regions of the country and the experience of traveling,” Ryan said.

Schroeder, a sophomore journalism major, was attending the conference for his first time. He planned to look into design sessions and also wanted to check out some editorial cartooning sessions.

“I think editorial cartooning is overlooked in our field, but it’s an important element of journalism,” he said.

Warbler staffer Damiani said October is a really busy month, so he and Schroeder said they were excited to get away and hoped to come back refreshed and recharged.

“I feel honored to go,” Schroeder said. “I didn’t really know what to expect and that’s exciting.” See page 5 for more information on the conference.

CMA Conference Awards

By Lauren Lombardo

Journalism professors Lola Burnham and James Tidwell not only attended the College Media Advisers conference but were also recognized for their duties and accomplishments as student publication advisers.

Burnham, editorial adviser of *The Daily Eastern News*, and Tidwell, chair of the journalism department, were honored in Orlando, Fla. Oct. 26-28.

The Associated Collegiate Press and College Media Advisers host CMA conferences twice a year. The ACP and CMA are dedicated to college media students and advisers.

“Our set up here is for the advisers to give advice; we’re not here to tell students what to do,” Burnham said. “Student editors really do make the decisions here and I think that’s really important.”

Burnham received an Honor Roll Award presented to four-year newspaper advisers. This is Burnham’s first time being awarded at the CMA conference.

In order to receive an Honor Roll Award from the CMA, advisers must be nominated, have letters of recommendation from colleagues and student journalists and a written letter from the nominee themselves about their philosophies on advising.

“It’s a great honor. What I mostly appreciate is that my colleagues and my students took the time to write those letters for me because if they hadn’t supported my nomination I wouldn’t have won,” Burnham said. “To me that’s the best part of it; they cared enough to take the time to do that.”



Photo by Marcus Smith

James Tidwell, journalism department chair, relaxes at this year’s Chili Bash in Seventh Street Underground, Oct. 23.

Tidwell will be inducted into the Hall of Fame of College Media Advisers. This is one of many awards he has received from CMA.

In order for a media adviser to be nominated for this award, he or she must have been a member of the CMA for at least 20 years and have up to five letters of support from other CMA members.

“It’s nice that people have recognized my track record,” Tidwell said. “I have been a member for 35 years, so I’m as qualified as anyone else. It’s good to know your colleagues have determined that you have made a positive impact on the organization over a long period of time.”

Tidwell joined three other EIU journalism faculty members as he entered the CMA Hall of Fame—current professors John Ryan and

Les Hyder and retired professor John David Reed.

Attending the conference, hosting their own programs and sessions, along with Burnham and Tidwell, were journalism professors John Ryan and Sally Renaud.

“It’s pretty fulfilling personally to do those sessions,” Tidwell said. “It’s nice to see students and advisers at the conference who really appreciate and are interested in what you’re talking about.”

10 students from the *Warbler* and *The Daily Eastern News* attended the conference.

Renaud has served the past year as the national president of College Media Advisers. As immediate past president, she continues to serve on the board and to advise the group. The spring meeting is March 18–20 in NYC.



Photo By Marcus Smith

Emily Steele, spring 2011 editor in chief of The Daily Eastern News, visits with current staff members of The Daily Eastern News.

Annual Alumni Chili Bash draws a crowd

By John Harshbarger

Fall, and the leaves are changing colors and the temperature is dropping: this could only mean that it was getting closer to homecoming.

During homecoming weekend the journalism department hosted its annual Chili Bash, after the game, for faculty, alumni and journalism students to get together.

Prof. John Ryan, chair of the department's Service & Outreach Committee, said that the event "allows students to attend and meet some of the alumni."

"There have been several memorable ones and the most memorable usually center around alumni making great efforts to get back for

Homecoming," he said.

He said a variety of different alumni and current students attend the event each year. At the height of the event, an average of around 60 alumni, faculty and students are in attendance.

Ryan said that he never knows which alumni will show up.

"That's part of the fun and there are always some surprises," he said.

Chili and beverages were served at the dinner. The Chili Bash was from 5 to 8 p.m. in the Seventh Street Underground. This will be the first time that the event was held in the Seventh Street Underground.

Department Chair James

Tidwell made the call to hold the event in the Seventh Street Underground. For the past two years the event was at Roc's, but the facility could not be rented to the department this year unless the event was earlier in the evening. Before Roc's the event had been held at other locations including the Eagles Club, the Lincoln Fire Protection District Fire Station, and even retired department chair, Dr. David Reed's house.

The first after game Chili Bashes were held in the basement of Ike's. The key is to find a location where people can interact and have fun, Tidwell said, which means almost any place works well for journalism alums!